

Message Text

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SUBJ: 16 MISSIONS HOLD CONSULTATION ON WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION

REF: GENEVA 6409

1. SUMMARY. UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF CHARGE, REPRESENTATIVES OF 16 MISSIONS IN GENEVA ENGAGED IN FRUITFUL CONSULTATION AT US MISSION OCTOBER 25 ON HOW TO PROCEED WITH COMING INTO FORCE OF WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION (WTO) STATUTES ON NOVEMBER 1, 1974, AND HOW

TO COORDINATE APPROACHES TO WTO PROVISIONAL SECRETARY GENERAL.
END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING WERE TOPICS RAISED, VIEWS EXPRESSED AND DECISIONS TAKEN DURING CONSULTATION:

A. TOPICS RAISED, VIEWS EXPRESSED:

(1) USE OF ARTICLE 42 OF WTO STATUTES: OF 16 MISSIONS REPRESENTED FOLLOWING 10 SAID THEY FIRMLY PLANNED TO UTILIZE ARTICLE 42 FOR MEMBERSHIP IN WTO DURING ITS FIRST YEAR. (IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED FIRST YEAR WOULD BEGIN ON NOVEMBER 1, 1974): NEW ZEALAND, AUSTRIA, AUSTRALIA, CANADA, FRANCE, FRG, ITALY, UK, USSR AND US. REPS OF JAPAN AND BELGIUM TOLD GROUP THAT THEY HAD BEEN INFORMED BY THEIR FOREIGN MINISTREIS THAT PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR THEIR COUNTRIES TO AVAIL THEMSELVES OF PROVISION OF ARTICLE 42 FOR FIRST YEAR
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MEMBERSHIP IN WTO. SWEDEN INDICATED LITTLE INTEREST IN JOINING

WTO; IRELAND REMAINED SILENT DURING CONSULTATION BUT AFTER SESSION ADMITTED IRISH TOURISM OFFICIALS UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT JOINING. HOLLAND, SWITZERLAND REMAINED SILENT. MEMBERS OF GROUP FELT POSITION TAKEN BY JAPANESE, BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER RE REQUIREMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL TO UTILIZE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 42 RAN COUNTER TO VERY PURPOSE FOR WHICH ARTICLE WAS INCLUDED IN WTO STATUTES. JAPANESE REP SAID HE INTENDED TO REPORT TO TOKYO CONSENSUS OF MEETING ON THIS SUBJECT.

(2) TIMING OF FIRST ASSEMBLY: GROUP AGREED TO RECOMMEND TO SYG LONATI THAT HE PROPOSE FIRST WTO ASSEMBLY BE DIVIDED INTO TWO SESSIONS, FIRST TO BE HELD IN EARLY MARCH: SECOND TO BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER, BUT IN ANY EVENT TO BE CONCLUDED BEFORE 1 NOVEMBER 1975. IT WAS RECOGNIZED THAT BECAUSE OF 90 DAY REQUIREMENT OF ASSEMBLY DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE, NOTICE COULD NOT BE GIVEN FOR CONVENING FIRST SESSION BEFORE FEBRUARY AND SINCE FEBRUARY NOT FEASIBLE FOR SYG WHO WHAS IUOTO/IATA MEETING IN PHILIPPINES THAT MONTH, IT WAS AGREED TO RECOMMEND THAT FIRST SESSION BE CONVENED IN EARLY MARCH.

(3) SITE OF FIRST ASSEMBLY: ALTHOUGH DUTCH, OTHER REPS NOTED THAT MEXICO WAS SOLICITING SUPPORT OF MEMBERS FOR PROPOSAL TO HOLD FIRST MEETING AT MEXICO CITY, FRENCH, OTHERS STRESSED THAT ACCORDING TO ARTICLES 2, 8.2 AND 40 OF WTO STATUTES IT CLEAR FIRST ASSEMBLY MUST BE HELD IN GENEVA. SEVERAL MEMBERS INDICATED THEY HAD ALREADY TOLD MEXICANS THIS WAS THEIR VIEW.

(4) AGENDA OF FIRST ASSEMBLY: IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT FIRST SESSION AGENDA SHOULD INCLUDE FOLLOWING POINTS: (A) ADOPTION OF AGENDA; (B) ADOPTION OF ASSEMBLY RULES OF PROCEDURE; (C) ELECTION OF ASSEMBLY OFFICERS; (D) ADOPTION OF GUIDELINES FOR AD HOC COMMITTEE TO DRAW UP 1976-77 WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET IN CONJUNCTION WITH SYG. (E) INCLUSION IN GUIDELINES FOR AD HOC COMMITTEE OF LUSAKA FORMULA FOR ASSESSMENTS AND NON-INCLUSION OF FUNDS FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN REGULAR BUDGET OF ORGANIZATION; (F) POSSIBLY, ADOPTION OF WTO FINANCIAL REGULATIONS.

IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED TO DEFER UNTIL SECOND SESSION OF FIRST ASSEMBLY (TO BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER 1975) FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS: 1) ADOPTION OF WORK PROGRAMS AND BUDGET FOR 1976-77; 2) ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL; 3) DECISION RE SITE OF PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS; AND 4) APPOINTMENT OF SECREAARY GENERAL.

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IT WAS AGREED, FINALLY, THAT ALTHOUGH SYG WAS AUTHORIZED TO PROPOSE AGENDA FOR FIRST ASSEMBLY, NOTHING COULD PRECLUDE MEMBERS FORM ADDING TOPICS AND HENCE REDUCING WORKABILITY OF AGENDA OUTLINED ABOVE. TO AVOID THIS DEVELOPMENT REQUIRED CONSIDERABLE WORK IN CAPITALS BY EMBASSIES OF CONSULTING POWERS PRIOR TO CONVENING OF FIRST SESSION OF FIRST ASSEMBLY.

(5) SUFFICIENCY OF TIME ALLOTTED FOR FIRST ASSEMBLY: MUCH FEAR WAS EXPRESSED BY EXPERIENCED UN AGENCY

HANDS THAT ONE WEEK ALLOTTED FOR FIRST SESSION OF FIRST ASSEMBLY MIGHT NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO COVER AGENDA TOPICS ALLOCATED; AND, IN FACT, THAT TOTAL TIME OF TWO TO THREE WEEKS FOR FULL FIRST ASSEMBLY--AS NOTED IN UOTO BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR THIS PURPOSE FOR YEAR 1975--MIGHT NOT BE SUFFICIENT FOR FULL SET OF AGENDA TOPICS ASSIGNED TO FIRST ASSEMBLY.

(6) ELECTION FO ASSEMBLY, COUNCIL OFFICERS: QUESTION WAS RAISED, BUT NOT ANSWERED, WHETHER, THOSE MEMBERS OF WTO WHO HAD UTILIZED ARTICLE 42 FOR MEMBERSHIP WOULD BE ELIGIBLE TO BE ELECTED AS OFFICERS EITHER OF ASSEMBLY AT FIRST SESSION OR OF COUNCIL AT SECOND SESSION OF ASSEMBLY. EVEN IF LEGALLY ARTICLE 42 MEMBERS WOULD BE ELIGIBLE TO BE ELECTED TO OFFICE, WOULD THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAD DEPOSITED THEIR RATIFICATION FOR POLITICAL AND PRACTICAL REASONS VOTE FOR MEMBERS WHO HAD NOT YET DONE SO FOR TERMS OF OFFICE RUNNING BEYOND 1975?

(7) DECISIONS TAKEN:

(1) CONSULTATIVE GROUP DECIDED THAT REPS OF MISSIONS THAT SO DESIRED SHOULD NOW CALL ON PROVISIONAL WTO SYG LONATI AND COMMUNICATE TO HIME POINTS LISTED ABOVE ON WHICH THERE WAS FULL AGREEMENT; AND (2) CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF 16 MISSION SHOULD MEET AGAIN AT US MISSION ON NOVEMBER 14 TO REPORT ON REPRESENTATIONS MADE, REACTIONS NOTED AND NEXT STEPS, IF ANY, TO TAKE.

3. ATTENDING CONSULTATION IN ADDTION TO US HOSTS (2) WERE REPS OF UK (2), FRANCE (2), FRG, ITALY, SWITZERLAND, SWEDEN, USSR, IRELAND, CANADA, NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, AUSTRIA AND JAPAN.

4. FYI. USMISSION OFFICER PROHME WILL CALL ON SYG LONATI ON OCTOBER 30 TO CONVEY US VIEWS ON STEPS TO BE TAKEN AS SOON AFTER NOVEMBER 1 AS POSSIBLE.

ABRAMS

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